

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A candle comprising a meltable solid fuel element, a melting plate upon which said fuel element rests, and a ~~raised~~ capillary lobe located on said melting plate, the capillary lobe comprising a wall extending upwardly from the melting plate, wherein the capillary lobe cooperatively engages a base portion of a wick holder, the base portion comprising a down-turned skirt extending adjacent the wall of the capillary lobe, wherein a gap is defined between the skirt and the wall of the capillary lobe, to form a gap therebetween between the capillary lobe and the base portion capable of causing a and wherein capillary flow of melted fuel ~~to rise~~ occurs upwardly through the gap along the wall of the capillary lobe from the melting plate to a wick retained over the capillary pedestal by the wick holder.

2. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein said fuel element further comprises one or more volatile active materials.

3. (original) The candle of claim 2, wherein said wick holder further comprises at least one heat conductive heat fin.

4. (currently amended) The candle of claim 3, wherein said meltable solid fuel element comprises a replaceable fuel element cooperatively engaging said ~~heat-conductive~~ melting plate, capillary lobe, and wick holder.

5. (original) The candle of claim 4, wherein the replaceable fuel element further comprises a starter bump on the top surface thereof, in close proximity to said wick, for ease of lighting said wick.

6. (previously presented) The candle of claim 3, wherein said melting plate further comprises a raised heat conductive portion by which heat is conducted from a flame upon said wick to said melting plate and to said solid fuel element, whereby a pool of heated liquid fuel is created, said melting plate being configured to cause the flow of said heated liquid fuel toward said wick holder.

7. (previously presented) The candle of claim 1, wherein said wick holder is configured so as to cause said candle to rapidly burn out if said wick holder is not cooperatively engaged with said capillary lobe.

8. (previously presented) The candle of claim 1, wherein said melting plate is treated so as to be self cleaning.

9. (currently amended) A candle comprising a meltable solid fuel, a support plate upon which said fuel rests, a wick holder comprising a wick, and a raised capillary lobe located on said support plate which ~~is cooperatively engages~~ covered by a base portion of the wick holder to form a capillary gap ~~therebetween~~ capable of causing a capillary flow of melted fuel from the support plate to the wick, ~~said wick holder conducting heat from a flame upon said wick to said capillary lobe and said support plate, and said wick holder engaging said meltable solid fuel.~~

10. (original) The candle of claim 9, wherein said wick holder further comprises at least one heat conductive heat fin.

11. (original) The candle of claim 10, wherein said meltable solid fuel comprises a replaceable fuel element cooperatively engaging said support plate, capillary lobe, and wick holder.

12. (previously presented) The candle of claim 10, wherein said support plate further comprises a heat conductive portion by which heat is conducted from a flame upon said wick to said solid fuel element, whereby a pool of heated liquid fuel is created, said support plate being configured to cause the flow of said heated liquid fuel toward said wick holder.

13. (original) The candle of claim 9, wherein said support plate is treated so as to be self cleaning.

14. (currently amended) A candle comprising a heat conductive surface shaped to hold and melt a solid fuel material included in a solid fuel element further comprising a wick holder including a wick and heat fins, and the surface being shaped so as to form a pool of liquid fuel, said surface further comprising a raised capillary lobe, which cooperatively engages a recessed base portion of said wick holder to form a gap between the capillary lobe and the wick holder through which melted fuel may flow from the melting plate to the wick, wherein said heat fins are configured so as to come in close proximity to a flame on said wick so as to conduct heat from said flame to said surface, and wherein said surface is shaped so as to cause said pool of liquid fuel to flow toward said wick.

15. (original) The candle of claim 14, wherein said replaceable fuel element is configured to cooperatively engage said surface.

16. (original) The candle of claim 14, wherein said replaceable fuel element further comprises one or more volatile active materials.

17. (original) The candle of claim 14, wherein the replaceable fuel element further comprises a starter bump on the top surface thereof, in close proximity but not in contact with

said wick for ease of lighting said wick, and wherein the temperature of said pool of liquid fuel exceeds a temperature of about 170° F. at a point about 10 mm from said wick, and about 140° F at a point about 20 mm from said wick, within less than about 10 minutes of lighting said wick.

18. (previously presented) The candle of claim 15, wherein said heat conductive surface further comprises raised heat conductive areas.

19. (original) The candle of claim 14, wherein said heat conductive surface is treated so as to be self cleaning.

20-39. (cancelled)

40. (previously presented) A candle comprising:

a support plate for holding a solid fuel element and including a raised lobe protruding upwardly therefrom;

the solid fuel element including a wick holder and a wick, the wick holder including a base portion that conforms to the lobe in such a manner as to form a capillary gap therebetween such that melted fuel may rise through the capillary gap from the support plate to the wick by capillary action.

41. (previously presented) The candle of claim 40, wherein the wick terminates at least about 0.25 inches above the support plate.

42. (previously presented) The candle of claim 40, wherein the base portion comprises a skirt that creates a capillary gap around the lobe.

43. (previously presented) The candle of claim 40, wherein the support plate comprises metal.

44. (previously presented) The candle of claim 40, wherein the wick holder comprises a heat fin configured to conduct heat from a flame on the wick to the base portion.

45. (previously presented) The candle of claim 40, wherein the wick holder is configured so as to fit closely over the capillary lobe.

46. (previously presented) The candle of claim 40, wherein the lobe is circular and a recess is disposed in a top of the lobe.

47. (previously presented) The candle of claim 40, wherein the fuel element further comprises a volatile active.

48. (previously presented) The candle of claim 40, wherein the capillary gap is disposed so as to achieve maximum consumption of the fuel element.

49. (previously presented) The candle of claim 48, wherein the support plate is shaped so as to cause melted fuel to flow toward the wick.

50. (previously presented) The candle of claim 49 further comprising a coating of surface tension modifying material applied to the support plate.

51. (previously presented) The candle of claim 50, wherein the coating comprises a layer of polytetrafluoroethylene.

52. (new) The candle of claim 1, wherein the gap is for establishing the capillary flow of melted fuel upwardly toward the wick.